

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:
 - a railing post having first and second ends; and
 - a post base connectable to said first end of said railing post, said post base comprising ~~an inner structural member and an outer surface member, said inner member being substantially embedded within said outer member, said inner member comprising steel and said outer member comprising aluminum~~ an inner structural member made of a first material completely encased within a surface member made of a second material different than the first material, the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member having portions extending through the apertures,
 - the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member.
- 2.-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim 1 ~~further comprising~~ one or more fasteners, each fastener extending through a corresponding one of the bores and into the

railing post for connecting said post base to said railing post.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:

a railing post comprising an elongated tubular body ~~and having~~ first and second ends ~~[[,]] said railing post comprising aluminum; and~~

a structurally reinforcing insert snugly insertable within said first end of said railing post; ~~[[,]] said insert comprising steel and~~

a post base adapted to receive the reinforcing insert and the railing post, the post base comprising an inner structural member made of a first material completely encased within a surface member made of a second material different than the first material, the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member having portions extending through the apertures,

the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member.

7.-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:

a railing post comprising an elongated tubular body ~~and~~ having first and second ends;

an insert snugly insertable within said first end of said railing post to engage an interior face of the railing post;

a post base connectable to said first end of said railing post, said post base comprising a ~~base member and a housing member connected to and extending from said base member, said housing member~~ portion adapted to snugly engage said railing post; and said post base member comprising ~~an inner structural member and an outer surface member, said inner structural member being substantially embedded within said outer surface member, said inner structural member comprising steel and said outer surface member comprising aluminum~~ an inner structural member made of a first material completely encased within a surface member made of a second material different than the first material, the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member having portions extending through the apertures,

the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member.

13. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim 12 wherein said insert ~~further~~ comprises an one or more engagement member members for engaging the interior face of the railing post, each engagement member comprising a projection received in a corresponding channel in the interior face of the railing post.

14.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim 12 ~~further~~ comprising one or more fasteners, each fastener extending through a corresponding one of the bores for connecting said post base to said railing post.

17.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim ~~19, said~~ ~~structurally reinforcing insert comprising an engagement member for receiving said fasteners wherein said insert~~ comprises one or more engagement members for engaging the interior face of the railing post, each engagement member comprising a projection received in a corresponding channel in the interior face of the railing post, and wherein the post system comprises one or more fasteners, each fastener extending through a corresponding one of the bores and into a corresponding one of the channels for connecting the post base to the railing post.

21. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim ~~20~~ 12, the top surface of said post base ~~further~~ comprising a plurality of horizontal flat surfaces on four top corners, at least one

of said bores intersecting each of said horizontal flat surfaces ~~each comprising a bore therethrough~~ for receiving a deck fastener capable of securing the post base to a deck surface.

22. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim 21, the top surface of said post base further comprising an outer wall top surface that is sloped to distribute water away from said railing post, said outer wall top surface adjacent to said horizontal flat surfaces ~~on said four top corners~~.
23. (Currently Amended) The post system of claim ~~22~~ 20, ~~comprising four bores for engagingly receiving said fasteners, each of said bores passing through said post base, said railing post and said insert, said fasteners being securable through said bores, said fasteners being engageable to~~ wherein the projection of each engagement member extends into the corresponding channel in the interior face of the railing post, such that when each fastener extends through the corresponding one of the bores and into the corresponding one of the channels, the fastener engages said post base, said railing post and said insert at the same time.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (New) The post system of claim 23 wherein when each fastener extends through the corresponding one of the bores and into the corresponding one of the channels, the fastener engages the bore of said post base, the channel of said railing post

and the projection of the engagement member of said insert at the same time

26. (New) A post base for supporting a first end of a railing post, the post base comprising:

an inner structural member made of a first material completely encased within a surface member made of a second material different than the first material, the inner structural member having top and bottom surfaces and apertures extending through the inner structural member between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member having portions extending through the apertures,

the post base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member.

27. (New) A post base according to claim 26 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises a plurality of horizontal flat top surface portions, each of the horizontal flat top surface portions intersected substantially perpendicularly by at least one of the bores.

28. (New) A post base according to claim 27 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises one or more co-planar horizontal flat bottom surface portions, each of the horizontal flat bottom surface portions intersected substantially perpendicularly by at least one of the bores.

29. (New) A post base according to claim 29 wherein a central recessed portion of the bottom surface of the post base is recessed relative to the one or more horizontal flat bottom surface portions.
30. (New) A post base according to claim 29 wherein one or more of the plurality of bores is located in a central region of the post base and extends between the top surface of the post base and the central recessed portion.
31. (New) A post base according to claim 29 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises one or more channels extending between the central recessed portion and an outer periphery of the post base.
32. (New) A post base according to claim 27, wherein the plurality of horizontal flat top surface portions comprises four horizontal flat top surface portions located at four corresponding corners of the top surface of the post base.
33. (New) A post base according to claim 32 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises four co-planar horizontal flat bottom surface portions located at four corresponding corners of the bottom surface of the post base, each of the horizontal flat bottom surface portions intersected substantially perpendicularly by at least one of the bores that also intersects a corresponding one of the horizontal flat top surface portions.
34. (New) A post base according to claim 33 wherein a central recessed portion of the bottom surface of the post base is

recessed relative to the horizontal flat bottom surface portions.

35. (New) A post base according to claim 34 wherein one or more of the plurality of bores is located in a central region of the post base and extends between the top surface of the post base and the central recessed portion.
36. (New) A post base according to claim 34 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises one or more channels extending between the central recessed portion and an outer periphery of the post base.
37. (New) A post base according to claim 26 in combination with a housing member connected to and extending from said post base, said housing member adapted to snugly engage a railing post.
38. (New) A post base according to claim 26 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises a central recess dimensioned to receive an end of a railing post to be supported by the post base.
39. (New) A post base according to claim 38 wherein the top surface of the post base comprises an outer wall top surface portion located around at least a portion of the perimeter of the central recess wherein the outer wall top surface portion is sloped outwardly away from the central recess to distribute water away from said railing post.

40. (New) A post base according to claim 26 wherein the bottom surface of the post base comprises a horizontal planar outer portion surrounding a central recessed portion and one or more channels, each channel extending through the planar outer portion between the central recessed portion and an outer periphery of the post base.